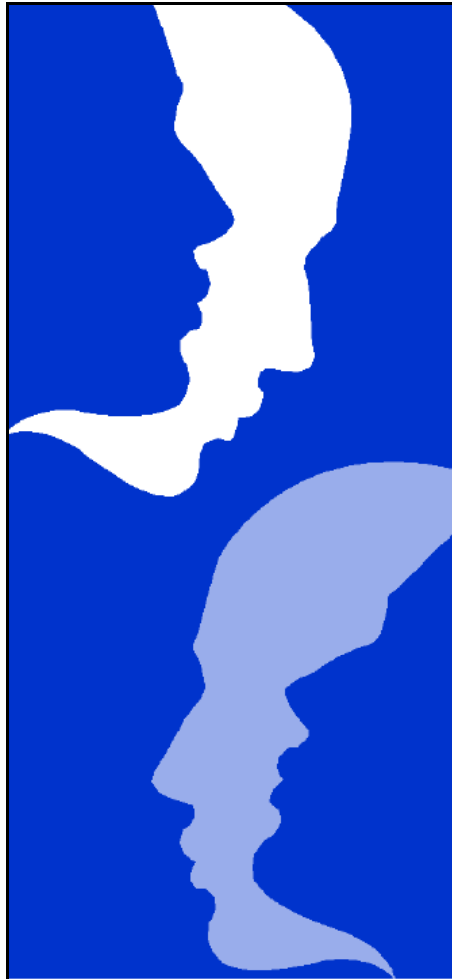




THE CHANGING FACE OF RENTON



CENSUS 2000 AND COMMUNITY DATA CITY OF RENTON

MAY 2004

For more information contact City of Renton Human Services 425-430-6650.



Acknowledgements

Kathy Keolker-Wheeler, Mayor
Jay Covington, Chief Administrative Officer

Renton City Council

Don Persson, Council President
Terri Briere
Dan Clawson
Randy Corman
Denis Law
Toni Nelson
Marcie Palmer

Community Services Department

Dennis Culp, Administrator

Human Services Division

Karen Bergsvik, Manager
Gloria Gamba
Don McWhorter
Lynn Rothlisberger
Dianne Utecht

Human Services Advisory Committee

Carol Chappelle, Chair
Margie Albritton
Cristen Baca
Janet Bertagni
Laura Brock
Rolf Dragseth
Robin Jones
Pam Wilson

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
Introduction	5
Community Profile	
Population Trends	7
Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality	10
Household Characteristics	13
Education	14
Parents in the Workforce	15
Income	15
Poverty Level	17
Food and Shelter (Basic Needs)	19
Free & Reduced Lunch Program	19
Housing	21
Home Ownership	21
Housing Authorities	22
Physical, Mental, Dental Health	24
Domestic Violence/Family Violence	25
Information and Referral Services	
Language	26
Independent Living	27
Refugee/Immigrant Populations	28
Place of Birth	30
English as a Second Language	30



The Changing Face of Renton

Executive Summary

Did you know?

Renton was one of the fastest growing cities in King County from 2000-2003, with a 2003 population of 54,900.

School age children, ages 5–18, comprise 16% of Renton's population.

Renton and South King County have become increasingly diverse. In 2000, only 68.1% of Renton residents identified themselves as White.

Hispanic/Latino is the fastest growing population in Renton and the United States. Of the Renton population, 7.6% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino, more than double the 3% in 1990. From 1992 to 2003, the number of Hispanic students in the Renton School increased 379%.

From 1990 to 2000, the 7-person household size grew over 250%.

In 1999, the annual median income for Renton was \$45,820. Nearly one fourth of the households in Renton earned between \$50,000 and \$74,999 in the same year.

Approximately 7% of Renton's families are living in poverty. About one out of three families are single females with children under the age 5.

In 2003, 42% (over 5300 students) in the Renton School District qualified for free and reduced lunches.

In 2000, 50% of the households owned homes in Renton. Fifty percent were renters and 39% of renters were paying more than 30% of their income for rent.

The Renton Housing Authority administers 729 Section 8 vouchers. The recipients of the vouchers locate privately owned rental units and pay no more than 30% of their income to rent. Eighty percent of King County's Housing Authority Section 8 vouchers are used in South King County.

There are over 2000 individuals and families on the waiting list for affordable housing with Renton Housing Authority. There are 864 households on the Section 8 waiting list which is closed.

In 2003, there were 2,092 domestic violence related 911 calls from Renton residents. Of those, 504 domestic violence cases were filed in Renton Municipal Court.

Almost one out of every twelve people in Renton over the age 5 speaks a language other than English in their homes.



The Changing Face of Renton

Introduction

The City of Renton Human Services introduces The Changing Face of Renton. The document provides the Renton City Council, the Human Services Advisory Committee, residents and service providers insights to:

- ❑ identify regional and local trends impacting Renton residents both now and in the future.
- ❑ understand the overall health and human service needs in the City of Renton.
- ❑ provide a framework for the allocation of resources to a continuum of human services for Renton residents.
- ❑ develop policies for the City of Renton Comprehensive Plan, Human Services Element.

The first portion of the document looks at the census data in detail. Census data from 2000 was used, with additional community information, to better understand the demographic characteristics of Renton. Census data from 1990 was also used to identify changes¹. The second portion will be completed in late May 2004 and will examine key issues, trends, and gaps.

Data for the South Central King County jurisdictions of Bryn Mawr/Skyway Census Designated Place (CDP)², Burien, SeaTac and Tukwila are included throughout the document. These areas are identified by the Northwest Area Foundation as the proposed project area for its ten-year plan to reduce poverty. Other jurisdictions are also included to provide a framework to view Renton information.

South King County includes the cities of: Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Burien, Covington, Des Moines, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Kent, Maple Valley, Milton, Normandy Park, Pacific, Renton, SeaTac, and Tukwila. Facts on South King County highlight what is happening in the region. Typically, what is occurring in human services in South King County is also happening in Renton.

Additionally, Renton School District and Renton Housing Authority information is included. Although Renton School District boundaries extend beyond the City limits, many human services are provided to these areas. For example, Renton Area Youth and Family Services operates the West Hill Family Enrichment Center in the Bryn-Mawr/Skyway area. The Renton Salvation Army also serves this area.

This document is intended to be an update of *Linkages*, written in 1996. It differs from the original document because it does not contain a ranking of high priority needs by the public and community leaders. The City of Renton Human Services Advisory Committee

¹ Data from different census tables include different age categories, so categories are not consistent in all the tables.

² CDP is a Census Designated Place, which is a concentration of population not within an incorporated place but is locally identified by a name, such as the Bryn Mawr/Skyway area.

is looking at ways to get this input throughout the funding process, rather than at one particular point in time. It also does not contain a detailed list of providers in Renton; the Renton Community Resource Directory now provides this information.

In the figures, race categories may be shortened to fit space constraints.



The Changing Face of Renton

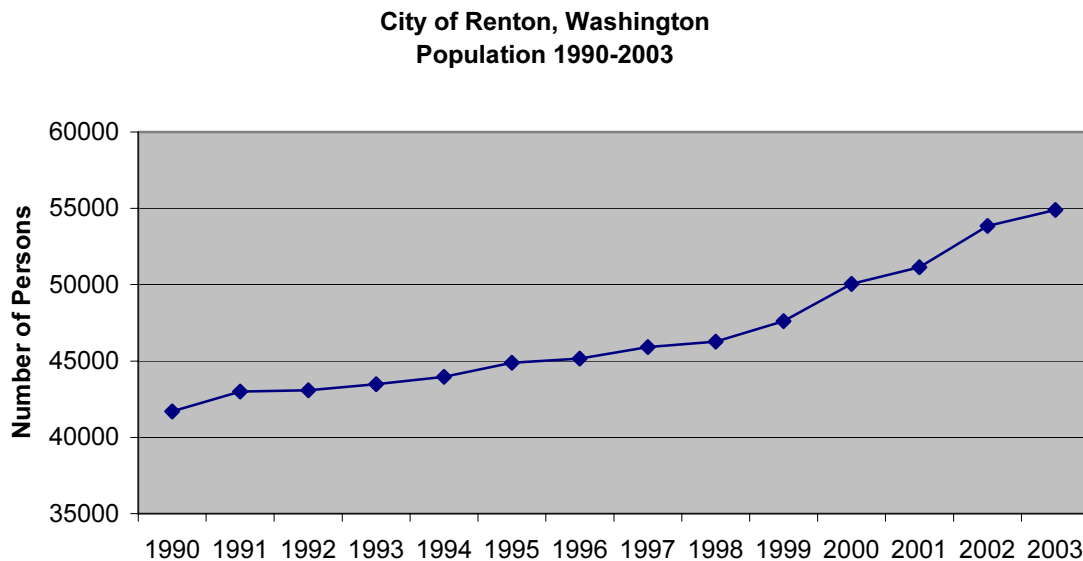
Renton: A Community Profile

Population

In 2000, Renton's population was 50,052; an increase of 8,364 from 1990. The population is still comprised of 50.3% females and 49.7% males. The population in King County grew 15.2% from 1990-2000. Renton's growth was 20.1%, with just 1.5% of that growth attributed to annexation.

Renton was one of the fastest growing cities in King County from 2000-2003. Its 2003 population was 54,900. This represents a population change of 4,848; an increase of 9.7% from 2000. Figure 1 shows the change in Renton's population from 1990 to 2003. Annexation accounted for an increase of 566 persons. Renton follows Seattle and Bellevue in cities with the greatest population growth during 2000-03. Rounding out the top five cities in population growth were Kent and Everett³. Tukwila and Federal Way both showed small increases of .3%. Burien's population decreased 1.3%, while SeaTac showed a decrease of 1.6% from 2000-2003.

Figure 1



As shown in Figure 2, Renton has the largest population of those jurisdictions in the South Central King County area.

³ Source: Puget Sound Regional Council, Regional View, December 2003.

Figure 2**2000 Population by Selected Jurisdictions**

	<i>South Central King County</i>						
2000 Population	Bryn Mawr/ Skyway	Burien	Renton	SeaTac	Tukwila	Federal Way	Seattle
Population	13,977	31,881	50,052	25,496	17,181	83,259	563,374

Age of Residents

The number of Renton residents by age category is shown in Figure 3. The school age population represents 16% of Renton's population. Almost 7 in 10 Renton residents are 19-64 years of age. Baby-boomers born from 1946-1964 represent almost 30% of the total workforce.

Figure 3 – 2000 Population by Age Groups

Age	Number of Residents	Percent
Total population	50,052	100%
Under 5 years	3,521	7%
5 to 9 years	3,171	6.3%
10 to 14 years	2,676	5.3%
15 to 19 years	2,758	5.5%
20 to 24 years	3,899	7.8%
25 to 29 years	5,010	10%
30 to 34 years	4,880	9.7%
35 to 39 years	4,575	9.1%
40 to 44 years	4,005	8%
45 to 49 years	3,426	6.8%
50 to 54 years	3,055	6.1%
55 to 59 years	2,292	4.6%
60 to 64 years	1,661	3.3%
65 to 69 years	1,241	2.5%
70 to 74 years	1,203	2.4%
75 to 79 years	1,101	2.2%
80 to 84 years	880	1.8%
85 to 89 years	474	.9%
90 years and over	224	.4%

Figure 4 shows the percent of Renton residents by specific age groups.

Figure 4

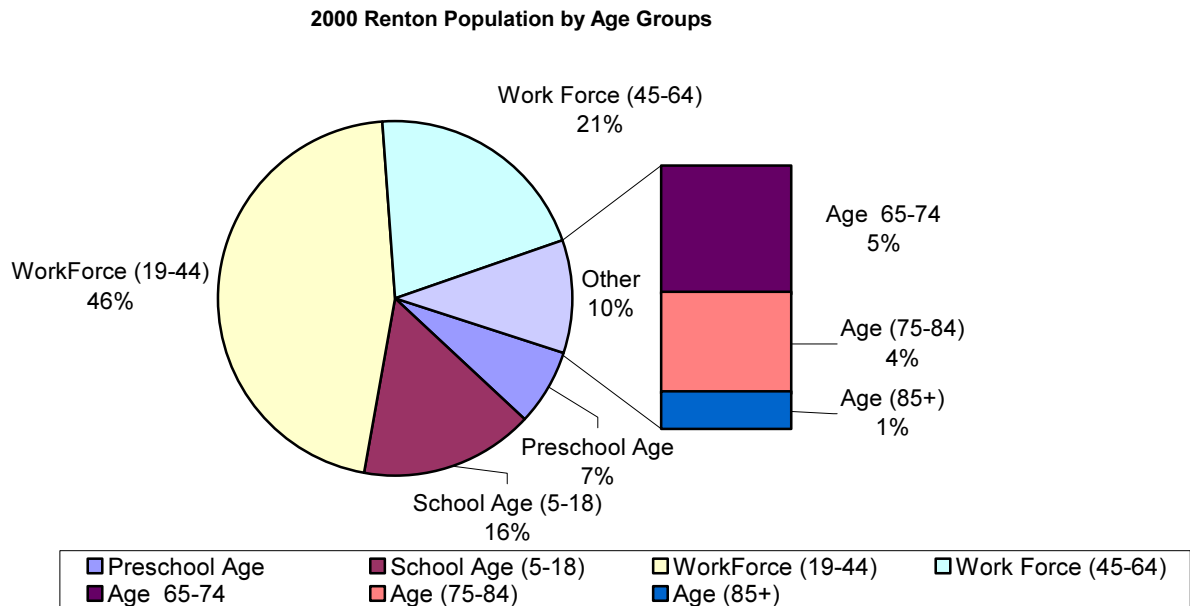


Figure 5 shows the population by age groups.

Figure 5

2000 Population by Age Groups by Selected Jurisdictions

	Bryn Mawr/Skyway	Burien	Renton	SeaTac	Tukwila	Federal Way	King County
Age 0-4	6.4%	6.1%	7.0%	7.2%	7.2%	7.8%	6.1%
5-19	18.2%	19.2%	17.1%	19.9%	19.3%	23.1%	18.9%
20-44	38.0%	36.2%	44.7%	42.0%	45.1%	40.3%	41.5%
45-64	23.5%	24.7%	20.8%	21.2%	20.6%	21.1%	23.0%
65+	14.0%	13.7%	10.3%	9.7%	7.8%	7.7%	10.4%

Figure 6

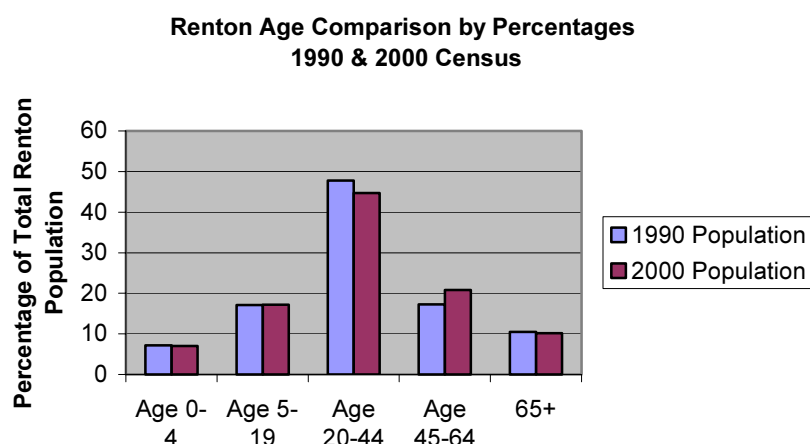


Figure 6 shows the percentages by age group for 1990 and 2000. Even with the decrease in the percentage of population in the 20-44 age group, Renton had the second largest 20-44 population in South Central King County area in 2000. Renton's increase in the senior population was moderate, while Bryn Mawr/Skyway had the largest increase.

Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality

Renton and South King County has become increasingly diverse in the past ten years. In 1990, 83.5% of the population reported themselves as White, but only 68.1% now identify as White, with an increasing number of minorities as shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7

**Comparison of Renton Population
by Racial and Ethnic Characteristics, 1990 and 2000**

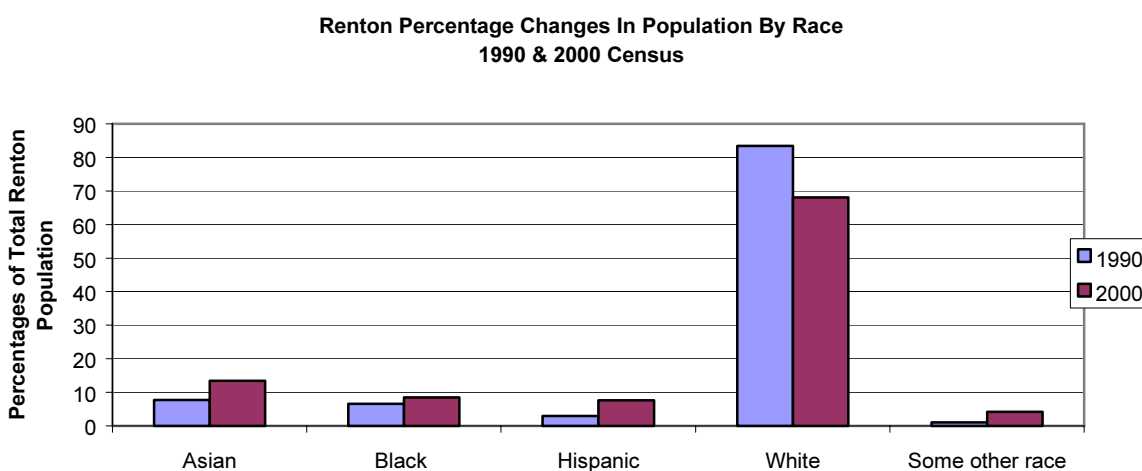
Characteristics	1990		2000		Change 1990-2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	41,688	100%	50,052	100%	8,364	20.1%
One Race						
White	34,790	83.4%	34,105	68.1%	-685	-2.0%
Black /African American	2,731	5.8%	4,238	8.5%	1,507	55.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3,227	6.9%	6,942	13.9%	3,715	115.1%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	491	1.2%	358	0.7%	-133	-27.1%
Some other race	449	1.0%	2,122	4.2%	1,673	372.6%
Two or More races (added in 2000)	N/A	N/A	2,287	4.6%	N/A	N/A
Ethnicity						
Hispanic or Latino May be any race	1,234	3.0%	3,818	7.6%	2,584	209.4%

Changes in the Census: The Census Bureau made changes on their questionnaires between 1990 and 2000, making some comparisons between 2000 data and data from prior years difficult. Three significant changes were made in the way race/ethnicity data was gathered.

- People who identify origin as Spanish, Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.⁴
- The Asian and Pacific Islander category was split into Asian and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. In Figure 8, the 2000 data for both categories was combined for comparison to the 1990 data.
- The category of “two or more races” was included for the first time in the 2000 census.

Those identifying themselves as having Hispanic or Latino ethnicity more than doubled, from 3% to 7.6% of the population. This mirrors the rest of the United States where the Hispanic/Latino sector is the fastest growing population.

Figure 8



⁴ There are 28 Hispanic or Latino categories in the 2000 census. They are: Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican Republic, Central American (Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Honduran, Nicaraguan, Panamanian, Salvadoran), other, South American, Argentinean, Bolivian, Chilean, Columbian, Ecuadorian, Paraguayan, Peruvian, Uruguayan, Venezuelan, other South American, and other Hispanic or Latino (Spaniard, Spanish, Spanish American, all other Hispanic or Latino).

Asian/Pacific Islander population almost doubled, from 7.7% in 1990 to 13.9% in 2000. Renton's Asian/Pacific Islander population is the second highest of the cities shown below. In Figure 9, the highest percentage of Asian/Pacific Islanders is found in the Bryn Mawr/Skyway area. It is close to four times the state percentage and almost twice the King County percentage.

Figure 9

2000 Race/Ethnicity Comparison in Selected Jurisdictions

	<i>South Central King County</i>						
	Bryn Mawr/ Skyway	Burien	Renton	SeaTac	Tukwila	Federal Way	King County
Hispanic Ethnicity	4.5%	10.7%	7.6%	13.0%	13.6%	7.5%	5.5%
Asian & Other Pacific Islander	22.3%	8.2%	13.9%	13.8%	12.7%	13.3%	11.3%
Black	25.3%	5.1%	8.5%	9.2%	12.8%	7.9%	5.4%
Native American	0.8%	1.3%	0.7%	1.5%	1.3%	0.9%	0.9%
White	44.2%	75.7%	68.1%	62.9%	58.6%	68.8%	75.7%
All Other*	7.3%	9.7%	8.8%	12.8%	14.6%	9.0%	6.7%

*All Other is some other race or two or more races.

In 2003, the Renton School District (RSD) had over 13,000 students enrolled in 13 elementary schools, 3 middle schools and 4 high schools. The school district data provided for 1992-2003 shows some major changes. Consistent with the demographic data for Renton and South King County, RSD has seen a dramatic change in the ethnicity of students. Figure 10 shows the percentage from 1992-2003.

Figure 10

	Asian	Black/African American	Hispanic	American Indian	White
1992 Enrollment	1,402	1,706	382	202	8,262
2003 Enrollment	2,814	2,440	1,451	186	6,389
Percentage Change	200%	143%	379%	-8%	-23%

Household Characteristics

The number of Renton households⁵ was 21,618 in 2000, and the average household size was 2.29 persons. The types of households are shown below. The average household size in 1990 was 2.27 persons. From 1990-2000, both King County and the State of Washington did not have changes in their average household size, while Tukwila had a 14% increase, SeaTac an 8% increase, and Burien 5% increase.

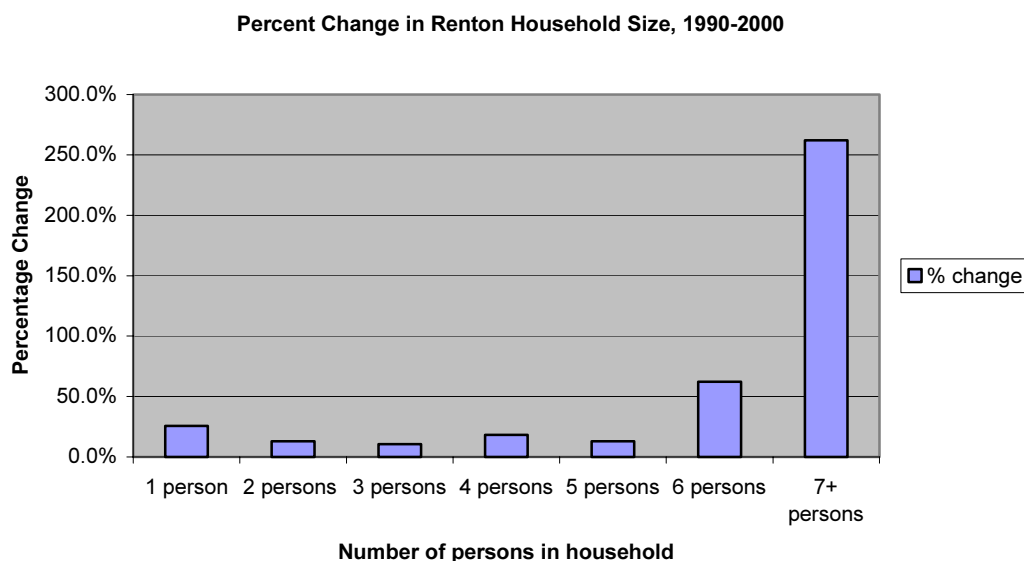
Figure 11 shows the number of persons by Renton household types.

Figure 11

2000 Renton Households by type	Number of persons
Married with children	3,615
Married without children	4,558
Single parent	1,622
Single non-family	7,587

Figure 12 shows the changes in the household sizes in Renton between 1990-2000. The 6- and 7-person household size shows the most significant increases. This is consistent with emergency and transitional housing providers who report receiving housing requests from much larger families. Many requests from larger families are coming from newly arrived refugee and immigrant populations.

Figure 12



⁵Households are defined as all persons occupying a housing unit as their usual place of residence. It may consist of a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any group of related or unrelated persons sharing living arrangements.

Family Size

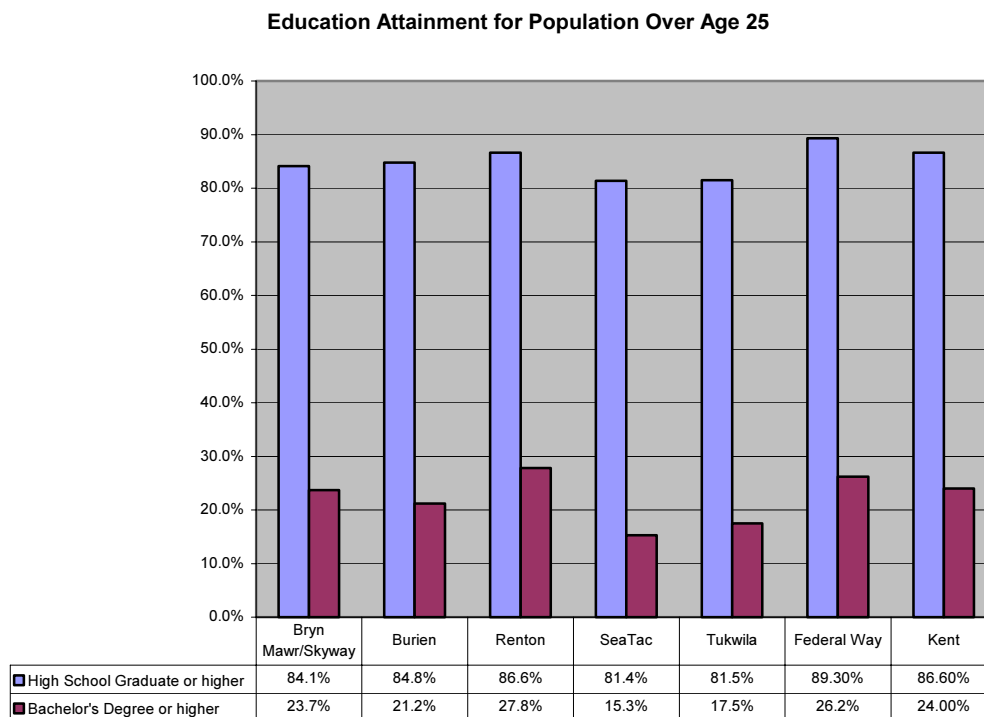
In Renton the average family⁶ size was 2.98 in 2000 and 2.92 in 1990. This is comparable to 2000 King County data with a 3.03 average family size.

In 2000, 34% of Renton residents lived in one-person households compared to 32% in 1990. There were still more women over 65 living alone than men by a ratio of 3:1 (1,319 women and 442 men).

Education

Among the South Central King County jurisdictions in 2000, Renton has the highest number of residents who have earned at least a Bachelor's degree, and one of the higher rates for high school graduates or beyond, as shown Figure 13. Renton residents are well educated and earn high wages.

Figure 13



For people reporting any earnings, the median income for those who left school without a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) is \$15,334 compared to \$29,294 for people with at least a high school degree or GED. Students who fail to graduate from high school are also more likely to become single parents and have children of young ages.

⁶ Families consist of a householder and one or more related persons living in the same household.

Parents in the Workforce

Seventy-four percent of the school age children from ages 6-17 are likely candidates for after-school care. They are either in two-parent families where both parents work, or in one-parent families where the parent is in the labor force. Fifty-nine percent of the children under 6 years of age, are in families where one parent (in the case of a one-parent home) or both parents are in the labor force. These numbers have not significantly changed since 1990. The net percent change was an increase of 4% in the 6-17 age group and 5.3% for those under the age of 6.

There are 715 households with grandparents raising one or more grandchildren under 18 years of age. Of those households, 49% have assumed full care of their grandchildren.

Income

Income is often considered an indicator of the economic health of the community. Figure 14 compares 1989 and 1999 median income.

Figure 14

Median Household Income Selected Jurisdictions 1989-1999

	1989 Median Income	1999 Median Income
Bryn Mawr/ Skyway	\$34,535	\$47,385
Burien	\$32,261	\$41,577
Renton	\$32,392	\$45,820
SeaTac	\$32,347	\$41,202
Tukwila	\$30,141	\$40,718
Federal Way	\$38,311	\$49,278
King County	\$36,179	\$53,157

The 2000 census data provides income information by category, summarized in Figure 15. Renton had a lower percentage of households earning more than \$75,000 than did King County as a whole.

Figure 15

**Income Distribution for Households
Comparison of Renton and Selected Jurisdictions
1999**

Income Category	Percent of Households in Income Category						
	Bryn Mawr/ Skyway	Burien	Renton	SeaTac	Tukwila	Federal Way	King County
0-\$9,999	7.0%	8.5%	7.1%	6.8%	6.5%	6.4%	6.4%
\$10,000-\$14,999	3.3%	5.0%	5.6%	5.4%	5.3%	3.6%	4.2%
\$15,000-\$24,999	10.7%	13.5%	10.9%	13.1%	13.6%	10.6%	9.3%
\$25,000-\$34,999	13.4%	14.5%	13.0%	15.5%	15.2%	12.0%	10.9%
\$35,000-\$49,999	18.2%	17.1%	17.3%	19.3%	21.6%	18.2%	15.6%
\$50,000-\$74,999	23.7%	18.5%	23.2%	21.5%	20.7%	24.1%	21.2%
\$75,000-\$99,999	12.4%	11.7%	11.4%	10.6%	8.6%	12.4%	13.6%
\$100,000-\$149,999	8.1%	7.5%	7.8%	5.3%	6.0%	8.7%	11.5%
\$150,000 and over	3.2%	3.6%	3.7%	2.4%	2.5%	4.0%	7.2%

Poverty Level

As shown in Figure 16, more of Renton's residents are living in poverty than in King County—nearly 7% of Renton families have incomes below the poverty threshold as compared to 5.3% for King County. About one out of three families below the poverty level are single female families with children.

Figure 16

Renton Population Living In Poverty - 1999		
Population Group	Number of Persons	Percent
Individuals (total)	4,798	9.7%
Individuals 18 and older	3,304	66.0%
Individuals 65 and older	401	8.4%
Families (total)	853	7%
Families with children under age 18	654	10.7%
Families with children under age 5	303	10.9%
Females alone with children under age 18	312	21.4%
Females alone with children under age 5	140	26.1%

Non-naturalized foreign-born residents entering the U.S. between 1995 and March 2000 are another group likely to have incomes below the poverty level. Among the foreign-born residents in Renton, 17.8% fall below the poverty level. However, of those foreign-born with incomes below the poverty level, 83% were not citizens.

Poverty thresholds (Figure 18) are used by the Census Bureau to determine who is poor. If a family's total annual income is less than the Bureau's threshold for that family size and composition, the family and every individual in the household is considered poor. These thresholds are considerably less than the income guidelines used to determine eligibility for other federal programs; for example, Community Development Block Grants or Temporary Aid to Needy Families.

Figure 17

Poverty Threshold Levels by Family Size	
Family Size	Families with annual incomes below are considered poor
One Person	\$ 9,039
Two Persons	\$11,569
Three Persons	\$14,128
Four Persons	\$18,104

The poverty information from the census is based on 1999 data. Given the economic downturn that occurred after this data was collected, it is likely there have been some changes in financial status and the poverty information is not as reflective of current financial status. It is highly likely that there are more families who are poor.



Food and Shelter (Basic Needs)

The need for adequate nutrition is one of the most compelling needs for survival, overall health, and learning. Food insufficiency can affect a child's ability to grasp basic skills and diminish concentration and overall learning potential. Recent research provides evidence that poor nutrition can lower test scores and reduce overall school achievement, as well as increase school absences and tardiness. These factors can ultimately affect overall academic performance.

Washington State had the second highest food insecurity and hunger prevalence rate in the United States for the period of 1999-2001.

The Renton Salvation Army Food Bank and other food banks in South King County report a 20% increase in the number of clients over the last three years. The Renton Salvation Army Food Bank serves approximately 2,565 persons monthly. This includes 1,539 children.

Free and Reduced Lunch Program

This program ensures low-income students receive at least one nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunch daily.

Figure 18 shows a comparison between 2000 and 2003, by school, in the percentage of students who qualify for the free and reduced lunch program.

Figure 18

Comparison of Renton School District Free & Reduced Lunch Data 2000-2003

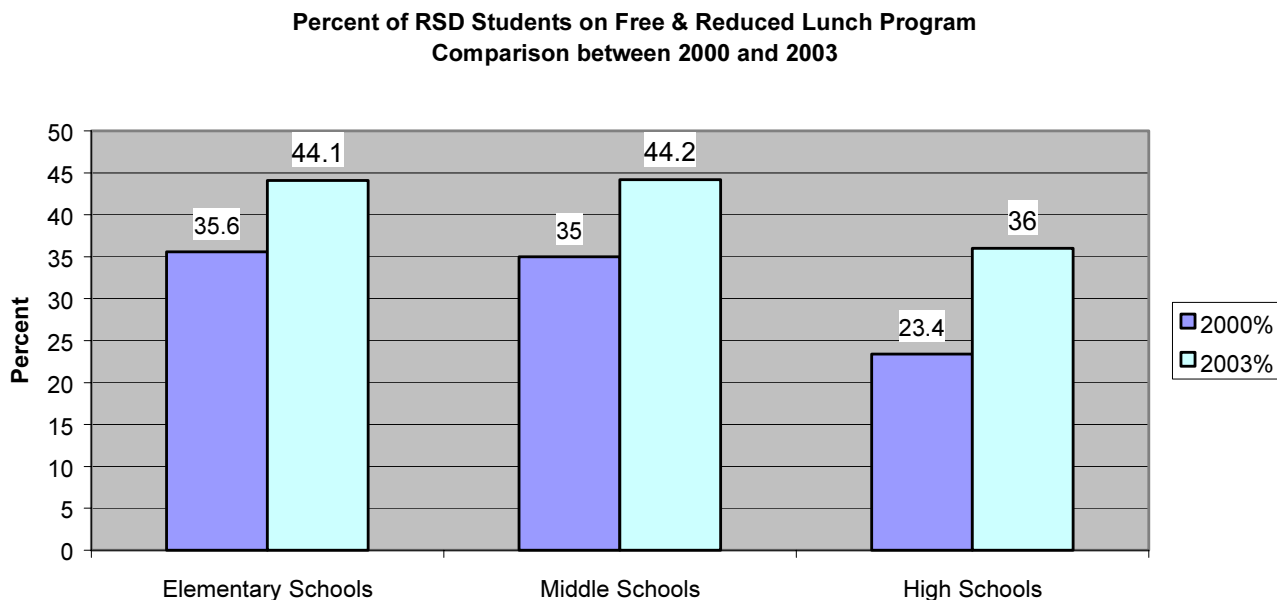
School	2003 Percent Free & Reduced Lunch	2000 Percent Free & Reduced Lunch	Percent Change
Benson Hill*	40.0%	26.8%	13.2%
Bryn Mawr	74.4%	56.2%	18.2%
Campbell Hill	71.7%	61.3%	10.4%
Cascade	49.8%	35.9%	13.7%
Hazelwood	11.6%	2.7%	8.8%
Highlands*	60.9%	38.3%	22.6%
Kennydale*	36.0%	26.4%	9.5%
Lakeridge	65.9%	55.7%	10.2%
Maplewood Heights	28.5%	22.0%	6.4%
Renton Park	37.4%	22.9%	14.5%
Sierra Heights*	36.6%	23.1%	13.5%
Talbot Hill*	34.6%	36.8%	-2.28%
Thomson*	48.8%	10.7%	38.14%
Tiffany Park*	53.4%	50.8%	2.54%
Elementary School Average Subtotal	44.4%	35.6%	8.8%

School	Percent Free & Reduced Lunch 2003	Percent Free & Reduced Lunch 2000	Percent Change
Dimmitt	58.1%	51.0%	7.0%
McKnight*	35.2%	22.1%	13.1%
Nelson	41.3%	33.3%	8.0%
Middle School Average Subtotal	44.2%	35%	9.2%
Black River	56.6%	45.8%	10.8%
Hazen*	26.5%	18.9%	7.6%
Lindberg	31.7%	20.9%	10.8%
Renton High*	50.3%	30.3%	19.9%
High School Average Subtotal	36.0%	23.4%	12.6%

*Denotes Renton Schools within the Renton City limits.

Figure 19 shows the increase of students who are on the Free & Reduced Lunch Program, a comparison between 2000 and 2003. Low-income families qualify⁷, as well as families receiving food stamp benefits, or in most cases, receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families. In 2003, 42% (over 5,300 students) in the district qualified for free and reduced lunches.

Figure 19



⁷ Those at 185% of poverty; see Page 18, Figure 17, for poverty income guidelines.

Housing

There are three types of housing. Emergency Housing is considered to be one to seven nights in duration. It is for those who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Transitional Housing varies in length of time by provider. Way Back Inn, a Renton provider, allows families to stay up to 90 days, and families usually receive an array of services to help them become self sufficient. In 2001, Way Back Inn turned away 870 homeless families for lack of space. Domestic Abuse Women's Network, a confidential transitional housing shelter for victims of domestic violence, turned away 3,711 requests for help during 2001.

Permanent Affordable Housing is either rental housing or owner-occupied housing where residents pay no more than 30% of their income for housing and housing-related costs. When households, especially low-income households, pay more than 30% of their income for housing, they may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.

Subsidized Housing is where the individual or family pays no more than 30% of their income for rent. The government pays the difference between market-rate (up to a certain dollar amount) and the 30%.

Home Ownership

The number of people owning their own homes in Renton increased slightly. In 1990, 48.5% of households lived in owner-occupied units, 51.5% in rental units. By 2000, that number had changed to 50% owner-occupied households and 50% renter-occupied units as indicated in Figure 20.

Figure 20

Percentage of Home Ownership in Selected Jurisdictions

2000 Census	Bryn Mawr/ Skyway	Burien	Renton	SeaTac	Tukwila	King Co.
% of Home Ownership	66.7%	56.4%	50.0%	54.4%	42.4%	59.8%

The percentage of households paying more than 30% of their income for housing costs has risen significantly since 1989. Eighty percent of Renton homeowners have mortgages, while 20% do not. Thirty percent of homeowners (2,700) pay more than 30% of their income for the mortgage and housing related expenses. This is an increase from 19.8% of the homeowners in 1990.

The cost of housing has more of an impact on renters. In 1990, 26% of renters paid more than 30% of their income for rent. In 2000, 39% of renters were paying more than 30% of their income for rent. In 2000, 16.7% were paying 50% or more of their income for rent.

According to Federal Government Department of Housing and Urban Development, a low-income family of three⁸ makes less than \$35,050 per year (\$2,921 per month). Their housing costs can't exceed \$876 per month to remain affordable. A very low-income family of three⁹ makes less than \$21,050 per year (\$1754 per month); their housing costs can't exceed \$526 per month to remain affordable.

In 2002, the average rent in Renton for a two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment for 20+ unit buildings was \$881 per month. Utilities will normally cost \$100 per month. On the average, apartments in Renton are not affordable to low-income families.

Affordable housing is virtually non-existent in King County for those with disabilities living on Supplemental Social Security (SSI). SSI payments are about \$575 per month. With the one-bedroom monthly rental rate in Renton at \$721, rent alone would be 125% of the person's income. In 1999, someone living on SSI could not find one market-rate housing opportunity in King County.

Housing Authorities

The Renton Housing Authority (RHA) provides affordable housing and administers Renton's Section 8 subsidized housing. They have a total of 338 units of affordable housing for seniors/disabled and 108 units of family housing. Section 8 vouchers allow eligible participants to locate privately owned rental units. Once a person receives a Section 8 voucher, the voucher may be used anywhere in the United States after residing in Renton for one year. RHA issues 314 Section 8 vouchers, and administers another 415 vouchers originally issued by other housing authorities. These participants now reside within the City of Renton.

King County Housing Authority provides 14,000 units of affordable housing to low-income people throughout King County, outside of Seattle and Renton. Of the 14,000 units, 10,404 units are in South King County. Eighty percent of King County's Section 8 vouchers are used in South King County.

Demographically, RHA tenants consist of 59% White, 26% Asian, 14% Black/African American, and 1% American Indian or Alaska Natives.

Because of the scarcity of low-income housing, the average length of time an individual or tenant remains in public housing in Renton is 6.93 years. This is an increase of nearly one year over the 1990-1999 period.

⁸ Less than 50% of median income for King County.

⁹ Less than 30% of median income for King County.

There are 864 households on the Section 8 waiting list, and the waiting list is now closed. There are over 2,000 individuals and families on the waiting list for affordable housing. Families wanting a two-bedroom unit have to wait a minimum of 3.5 years before a unit is available. While there are a large number of people on the wait list for studios and one bedroom, the average wait time is less than 1½ years due to the majority of units in this size range. Conversely, there are only 10 units with 4 bedrooms, so the waiting time is longer. Figure 21 shows the wait list by bedroom size.

Figure 21

Current Wait List by Bedroom Size for RHA Subsidized Housing

	STUDIO	1BR	2BR	3BR	4BR	5BR	6+BR	Total
Senior	15	75	15	4	2	0	0	111
Disabled	132	218	64	18	2	0	0	434
Family	116	239	766	270	76	5	0	1,472



The Changing Face of Renton

Physical, Mental, Dental Health

Low-income families are less likely to have health insurance than higher income families. Three percent of those earning more than \$50,000 a year in King County are uninsured, but 33% of King County adults under age 65 with incomes in the \$15,000 to \$24,999 are uninsured.

Many King County adults, including those over 65, do not have health coverage for other health services even if they are insured for physician services. Survey data indicated an average of 41% of adults lacked vision care insurance, 34% lacked dental care, 28% lacked mental health care, and 18% lacked prescription drug coverage.

Over 50% of uninsured adults report an unmet medical, dental, prescription drug or vision care need within the past year. There is a relationship between lack of health insurance and increased risk of death and hospitalization from causes that may be preventable.

The four Community Health Centers of King County (CHCKC) located in Renton, Kent, Auburn and Federal Way provided medical care to 25,457 patients, 2,800 between 0-4 years. Their dental sites provided care to 8,292 clients including 982 children, 0-4 years of age.

CHCKC is the primary provider of health and dental care to uninsured Renton families. They estimate that in 2003 they provided \$42,000 in uncompensated care to Renton residents.

In addition, the Seattle King County Department of Public Health provides preventative services at five centers in South King County and dental services in Renton to older adults only.

South King County has the highest rate of teen birth. The Renton Health Planning area had a rate of 12.7 births per 1,000 for females ages 15–17, which is the same as the King County three-year average rate. White Center/Skyway had the highest rates of teen birth with more than 28 births per 1,000.

The Renton Youth Health Center, formerly the Renton Teen Health Center, closed in June 2003 due to uncertain funding. Funding has been restored and it will reopen in December. Open two days a week, the center served about 100 youth per month. It provides reproductive health services to any junior high or senior high student.



The Changing Face of Renton

Domestic Violence/Family Violence

Domestic violence affects all races, cultural backgrounds, economic backgrounds, family influences, social networks and lifestyles. Their intimate partners abuse an estimated 25% of American women at some time in their life. In King County between 1999–2001, at least 34 deaths were connected to domestic violence. Nine of the 21 homicides in the City of Renton from 1995 to 1999 were related to domestic violence.

The Renton Police Department reports there were 2,092 domestic violence-related 911 calls in 2003. Five hundred-four domestic violence cases were filed in Renton Municipal Court in 2003.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15-44 in the United States. It is estimated that 22%-35% of all women seeking medical treatment in hospital emergency rooms are victims of spousal/partner abuse. Domestic violence is the number one reason women and children in King County become homeless.

The domestic violence advocate for the Renton Police Department is seeing increasing numbers of immigrants, refugees and people of color as victims, requiring more culturally appropriate and accessible services. Support groups are typically only offered in English and need to be offered in an array of languages.

The Renton Municipal Court issued fifty-four protection orders in 2003. Many victims choose to go to the Regional Justice Center in Kent for protection orders and no-contact orders, since there is no security at the Renton Municipal Court.



Information and Referral Services

Language

Reflective of the increasing diversity in Renton, there was a 123% increase from 1990 to 2000 of people speaking languages other than English in the home, while the overall population in Renton increased by 20.1%. The population (over age 5) reported speaking English “less than very well” increased from 3.7% in 1990 to 12% in 2000.

About one out of every twelve people in Renton over age 5 speaks a language other than English in their homes, as shown in Figure 22. It has more than doubled the number since 1990. The number of “linguistically isolated” households also increased. A linguistically isolated household is one where no member over the age of 14 speaks English very well. By 2000, the number had increased to 1,431 households, up from 422 in 1990. This represents an increase of 227% in the number of households who are most likely having difficulty communicating as they obtain needed information or services.

Figure 22

Non-English Speakers in Renton 1990-2000

	1990		2000		Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	1990 - 2000
Over age 5 population speaking a language at home other than English	3,925	10.1%	10,522	22.6%	123%
Over age 5 population that speaks English “less than very well”	1,538	3.7%	5,558	12.0%	224%

Other languages spoken in Renton are indicated in Figure 23.

Figure 23

Other Languages Spoken in Renton

2000 Census	Number of Speakers	Percent of Non-English Speakers
Spanish	2,821	26.8%
Indo-European Languages (includes Russian, Indic, Slavic, etc.)	2,445	23.2%
Asian & Pacific Island Languages	4,699	44.7%
All Other Languages	557	5.3%



The Changing Face of Renton

Independent Living

Proportionately, Renton's population is aging, with 12.3% over the age of 65 (representing 5,123 persons). As the population ages, there may be increasing demands on services supporting seniors, such as adult day health care, food, recreation opportunities and housing repair. Renton Housing Authority has found that many of the seniors who reside in their buildings need additional services to remain independent.



Refugee/Immigrant Populations

Place of Birth

One factor in the growing diversity in Renton and South King County is the increasing number of foreign-born residents.¹⁰ The percentage of the foreign-born population in Renton, who entered the United States from 1990-2000, increased 292% over the prior ten years as shown in Figure 24.

Figure 24

Renton Growth in Foreign-born vs. Total Population: 1990 and 2000

	1990	2000	Total Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 1990- 2000
Total Population	41,688	50,052	8,364	20.1%
Foreign-born population	3,261	9,590	6,329	194%
Foreign-born population entering US in previous 10 years	1,287	5,043	3,756	292%

Ensuring foreign-born residents receive culturally sensitive and culturally specific services continue to be an important issue in Renton and South King County. During the delivery of all services, agencies and staff are encouraged to be aware of the differences of various cultures and ethnicities and provide services with respect and acknowledgement of these differences. At the same time, it is important to recognize the impact that serving the foreign-born has on human service agencies as well as City departments. The need to provide translation and interpreter services continues to grow.

Newly arrived residents may need assistance in dealing with agencies such as the Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) and Social Security; obtaining affordable medical and dental care, and housing; and accessing job training and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Refugees and immigrants also stay longer in

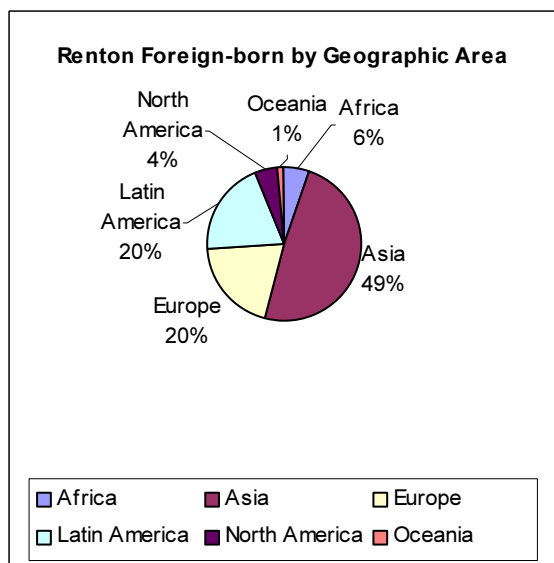
¹⁰ The foreign-born populations are people who are not U.S. citizens at birth.

domestic violence shelters due to language barriers. Their average stay is 34 days compared to 23 days for non-refugees and non-immigrants.

The City of Renton Human Services Division publishes a Community Resource Directory in English, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese in a format culturally appropriate for each language.

A total of 6,329 Renton residents are foreign-born; 43.9% have become naturalized citizens, 56.1% are not citizens.¹¹ Those that have been in the country before 1980 have the highest rate of citizenship (82%), while those entering from 1990–2000 have the lowest rate (17.4%).

Figure 25



Renton's foreign-born population increased from 7.8% in 1990 to 19.2% in 2000¹². The percentage of foreign-born arriving in the U.S. between 1990 and 2000 was about 3 times greater than the number arriving the previous decade. Through 2000, almost half Renton's foreign-born population came from Asian countries, mostly from South East Asia as illustrated in Figure 25. Latin America and Europe both contributed about 20% of the population. However, in the U.S. as a whole, Latin Americans represent the largest percentage of foreign-born residents. Mexico comprises the majority of immigrants and refugees from Latin America. Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Bloc countries, makes up 65% of the European immigrants.

This is reflected in the other languages spoken in Renton. English as a Second Language (ESL) students in the Renton School District spoke 47 languages during the 2001-2002 school year. The top languages spoken in the district by ESL students were Spanish (529), Vietnamese (127), Russian (123), Ukrainian (110) and Somali (91).

The newest wave of immigrants¹³ and refugees¹⁴ are coming predominately from the Sub-Saharan African countries (Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Congo, Sudan, Zambia, Nigeria, Angola, Ivory Coast and Madagascar). Among the jurisdictions in the South Central King County area, SeaTac had the most people from that area in 2000; however, that population is increasing in all South King County jurisdictions. South King County is home to a large number of East European refugees, and they are becoming more acculturated.

¹¹ Citizens are people who indicate they were born in the U.S., Puerto Rico, or abroad of a U.S. citizen parent(s) are U.S. citizens. People who indicate that they are U.S. citizens through naturalization are also citizens. Naturalized citizens are foreign-born people who identify themselves as naturalized. Naturalization is the conferring, by any means, of citizenship upon a person after birth.

¹² Oceania is a group of Australian and New Zealand Islands.

¹³ An immigrant is someone who is not a U.S. citizen, but has been authorized to permanently live in the United States.

¹⁴ Refugees are individuals that reside outside the country of their origin because they are afraid of persecution.

Figure 26 represents the number of foreign-born people by selected jurisdictions.

Figure 26

Number of Foreign-born by Country of Birth by Selected Jurisdictions

County of Birth	Bryn Mawr/Skyway	Burien	Renton	SeaTac	Tukwila
Europe	142	905	1,951	604	960
Asia	1,898	1,756	4,615	2,139	1,533
Africa	111	179	529	665	456
Oceania	68	172	132	216	92
Latin America	254	1,642	1,947	1,891	1,352
Canada	63	186	416	225	112
TOTAL	2,536	4,840	9,590	5,793	4,505

English as a Second Language

Consistent with the increase in ethnicity and the higher numbers of refugees and immigrants in Renton, enrollment in the English as a Second Language Program in the Renton School District has increased by almost 1,100 students since 1993 as illustrated in Figure 27.

Figure 27

English As a Second Language Enrollment in Renton School District

Year	Number of Students	Percent of Total Enrollment
1993	155	1.3%
1994	195	1.6%
1995	256	2.1%
1996	303	2.5%
1997	364	3%
1998	453	3.6%
1999	610	4.8%
2000	809	6.4%
2001	895	7%
2002	1,024	7.8%
2003	1,239	9.3%